AN

ESSAY,

ON

MEDICAL EDUCATION:

WITH

ADVICE TO YOUNG GENTLEMEN OF THE FACULTY, WHO GO INTO THE ROYAL NAVY AS SURGEONS' MATES.

BY JAMES RYMER.

It is commendable to write what one thinks: It is the privilege of man!

VOLTAIRE.

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TO

SIR JOHN CHETWODE,

THOSE FEW PAGES,

AS A VERY TRIFLING TESTIMONY

OF REGARD,

ARE HUMBLY INSCRIBED,

BY

HIS MOST HUMBLE,

AND MOST OBEDIENT SERVANT,

JAMES RYMER.

TO

SIR JOHN GRETWODE,

PROPOSE FEW PAGES,

I ASK YOUR TRUSTING TESTIMONY

OF REGARD,

AND HUMBLY INSCRIBED,

BY

THE AUTHOR.

JAMES RANKEN.

PREFACE.

I Believe there is not a poor Crocus under the ſun—that is, upon this planet, either under, upon, or above, its ſurface—for the garret is often the ſeat of the muſe—where many a poor Poet and worthy Author ſtruggles with Fortune, laying tight ſiege to the capricious Jade, with intellectual vigour, to gain an honeſt indepandance.—I ſaid, I believed there was not a poor Crocus under the ſun—and what then?——why? who approves of, and applauds, medical brevity, ſo much as myſelf. I have a main hatred to hum-drum paragraphs, and all manner of long-winded harangues, which only tend to convince the enlightened world their authors were, or half aſleep, or muddled, fuddled—or, that by dwelling too long upon a point, their ideas of the matter, had become offuſcated and totally bewildered—ſome again lead themſelves into this labyrinth, from a ſtrange ambition to

appear keen and intelligent—alas! poor authors.—I ſay, I like ſpeculative brevity—but then it muſt be methodical—it muſt be pithy—it muſt be to the purpoſe—judicious, rational, logical, with half a ſcore more of analogous qualities: and, above every other conſideration, if it hath length, breadth, and depth, it will make a vigorous reſiſtance to all critical attacks—for theſe qualities you know, conſtitute body—again, body is an object of the ſenſes—and, an object of the ſenſes is perceived diſtinctly—and what is perceived diſtinctly may eaſily be comprehended ———hence we will then ſay, a ſpeculation thus qualified may be underſtood even by thoſe unſkilled in the mathematics.

Now there have been your Eſculapians—your Hippocratians—your Stahlians—your Galenians—and of latter date—your Boerhaavians your Sauvagians—your Sydenhamians—your Whitites—your Rutherfordites—your Gregorians—but he was a moſt worthy man—your Cullenites—and ſo were they all—; but, I wonder if there will ever be your Rymerians—I don't believe it——wherefore I will take a pinch of ſnuff, and then proceed.

Well,

Well, there is a *ſomething*,——*un non ſo che*, ſo agreeable and particularly pleaſing, as well as uſeful, in a ſimple pinch of ſnuff, I can hardly account for it——unleſs I attempt it thus—— Its metaphyſical principle, which I would call the ſubject of its logical diſtinction, by the way of the olfacteries, gives ſuch a percuſſion to the ſenſorium, that not only the whole nervous ſyſtem partakes by ſympathy——but, again, the mental powers alſo renew any intellectual taſk with accelerated energy——hence, I call it the *Pabulum of Literature*, and of ſpeculative compoſition ——conſequently its uſe ſhould be adopted by all thoſe who wiſh to gain diſtinction in the hiſtorical liſt of men of letters and illuminated parts.

Indeed, when a man is not over eager to ſhine, but goes about buſineſs calmly and without any rebellion of the mental faculties, he commonly ſucceeds the better; and if he be an author, believe me, his work will deſerve peruſal.

I am a comical fellow—and, if I go on comically, you will, from this blunt declaration, not be ſurpriſed———If, from comical things, comical things be taken away, comical things will ſtill remain—ſo that from this, let me unload my

mind

mind ever ſo much, I *fear* I ſhall ſtill remain comical.

Now, you muſt not raſhly paſs a judgment on me from what I have advanced; for, as yet, I have only drawn a few irregular out-lines—by and by, I will begin to ſhade—and I poſſitively intend my ſhades ſhall be *phyſical*, *medical*, *funical*, &c.—— and, if I give you ſome ſpecimen of ſhades *erronical*, I flatter myſelf, I ſhall not be thought ſingular.

At univerſities, the want of proper advice in the proſecution of ſtudy is well known to be generally complained of by the young medical ſtudent. It is true, profeſſors give advice; but, mankind are ſo various, ſo fluctuating in opinion and judgment—and oftentimes ſo biaſſed to intereſting ends, that ambiguity, and deviations from reaſon, too frequently occur: and, as I have experienced the diſadvantageous conſequences of it, in a variety of inſtances, will authorize myſelf to aſſert, that the utility of a ſubject of this nature will undoubtedly be acknowleged by every candid, ſenſible, and impartial judge.

ADVICE

TO

MEDICAL STUDENTS, &c.

CHAP. I.

THE ſcience of medicine is very comprehenſive—it takes in the nature and properties of the human body, the knowledge of diſeaſes, and that of their cures, &c. In order to this, the young adventurer in medicine, muſt be ſkilled in claſſical learning, to enable him to dive into the repoſitories of ancient authors, and perhaps of thoſe of a latter date, whoſe pride muſt needs vent itſelf by means of the Latin tongue—and whether, ſuch authors are able to tranſlate their thoughts into that language, or borrow the aid

aid of others, is not my buſineſs to enquire—beſides, it might be a digreſſion too copious.

Secondly, *Young Man*, it would be neceſſary to ſerve an apprenticeſhip to one of the *regulars* who keeps ſhop, and practiſes methodically—by this, you will acquire a ſmattering in the practical branches—you will alſo learn the method of mixing medicines, or pharmacy—and, to lay the ground work, you may read ſuch authors as have wrote ſimply and reaſonably, and judiciouſly and ſyſtematically on pharmacy, materia medica, anatomy, practice of phyſic, &c. but I am afraid it will be difficult to point out ſuch books—I will leave this to the profeſſors.

You muſt alſo have ſtudied arithmetic and mathematics—not only have ſtudied, but muſt have acquired a knowledge therein, for there are many who ſtudy, but do not improve.

Come, we will now take a trip to the univerſity—and, being a tractable young man—you will readily hearken to advice.

I will look upon you as a ſtranger in the place, unacquainted with the profeſſors, and will ſuppoſe you alſo a ſtranger to the various vices which infeſt ſociety, and conſtitute the bane of

mortal

mortal felicity, and ſocial bliſs—I will therefore ſay, your young mind is uncontaminated, and now in a fit ſtate to receive the impreſſions of all that is good, praiſe-worthy, and uſeful; whereby to render you famous among men, even to after-ages, all your actions being worthy of imitation, as proceeding from ſound judgment, and the powers of a rational ſoul, reaſonably cultivated by proper education, with views of doing good to your fellow creatures, ariſing from motives, *honourable* and *juſt!*

You are now arrived in the place or city where is the univerſity an entire ſtranger—in this caſe you will naturally put up at an Inn for a night or ſo, where you will have a chamber for your particular uſe while you remain—here, you ſup, ſleep, riſe in the morning betimes, breakfaſt, dine, drink tea or coffee in the afternoon—if you like it, and ſleep and ſup again, &c. and the elegance of the particulars of this conduct muſt be proportioned to your allowance, avoiding every tendency to extravagance. In the mean time you muſt acquaint yourſelf with the methods uſed by ſtudents in ſuch caſes and ſituations—To avoid confuſion, we will ſay we are

at

at Edinburgh, as that univerſity is juſtly famous for medical education: here you will find that ſome board with ſurgeons who keep ſhops, for the ſake of improvement in the practice of phyſic and ſurgery; ſome in proper boarding houſes, where all the neceſſaries, as well as ſome ſuperfluities of life are afforded; here I do not include wearing apparel, that hypotheſis would be abſurd—In a houſe of this kind, you will find many gentlemen engaged in different ſtudies—ſome the law, ſome divinity, and others the fine gentleman; ſome again hire lodgings where they ſtudy, ſleep, breakfaſt, drink tea in the afternoon, and ſup; and in reſpect to dinner they generally dine at eating-houſes. Further, you will find another ſet, who hire lodgings keep good wines, and pretty miſſes, which they generally prefer to their ſtudies.

Now which of thoſe ſituations ſhall we fix upon?—which would you prefer?—ſpeak freely, I am far from being ſevere, or prejudiced.

CHAP. II.

ACcording to my firſt hypotheſis, you are a ſtranger to vice, and your morals are uncorrupted—I therefore readily conjecture you would by no means adopt the conduct of the laſt ſet of ſtudents—I perceive you are unſkilled in matters of this kind, you wiſh to gain knowledge in your profeſſion—now, as I exult in ſeeing all young men flouriſh in laudable undertakings, ſo I will direct you in the method which appears to me, and, I hope, to every reaſonable man, to be the beſt and moſt advantageous.

Go to any Surgeon who is able in his profeſſion, and eminent from ſucceſsful practice—tell him, you are come to the city in order to ſtudy medicine methodically; that you have acquired ſome little knowledge in the firſt principles of the ſcience by country practice, and the reading of medical authors; that you wiſh ſtill to improve in the practical branches; that you are not yet fixed in lodgings, being a ſtranger; and

that, if it might ſuit, and be agreeable to him, you would wiſh to board and lodge in his houſe, in order to give attendance, at leiſure hours, to his practice. This will be ſufficient, provided he be a man of honour, and candour, and probity. He will inform you of the cuſtomary terms in ſuch caſes, to which you agree, being conformable to the ability of your allowance, or fortune; for, I ſuppoſe, your relations and friends do moſt willingly encourage every means tending to your improvement.—You will eat at his table, have a chamber appropriated for your particular uſage: and, in ſhort, you will have every article neceſſary in your preſent ſituation. With regard to the ſurgeon's practice, you will not be looked upon as an aſſiſtant—what you do, will be merely voluntary; but, to enable you the ſooner to be of uſe to mankind, I adviſe you not to be a mere ſpectator, mix particular medicines, and as the more diſagreeable part of practical ſurgery will not be beneath your notice, apply to the dreſſing of wounds, the application of bandages, &c. and you will gain ſkill in diſeaſes by viſiting patients, carefully obſerving the difference of treatment required by different ſymptoms.

Having

Having determined the method of your reſidence, we will next ſtep to the profeſſor. And as nothing can be done in practice, without a knowledge of the human body, we will firſt call upon the profeſſor of Anatomy and Surgery, for thoſe branches go together: and if Mr. Surgeon was to go with us, being acquainted with the profeſſor, his introduction would not be amiſs: however, perhaps he does not chuſe it, or again, peradventure, you don't chuſe to aſk him, therefore, we will go by ourſelves—You will have immediate admiſſion; and after having made your *bow* reſpectfully, and with grace, for I ſuppoſe you can dance a minuet, you tell him you are juſt arrived from the country, or, &c. if you like it, for there is no compulſion, in order to ſtudy phyſic, or medicine, which you pleaſe: but the latter is preferable; and, that you want to begin with anatomy, and are come to be matriculated; that is, to buy a ticket for his courſe of Lectures; in ſhort, to be enrolled in the univerſity-liſt of ſtudents

The Doctor will behave with great complaiſance and affability, as moſt men do when about to receive gold; but if he be a good ſoul, there will

will be a ſincerity of friendſhip, and a tender tie will commence for the welfare of the young man now entering into the liſt of his pupils—he will deſire you to be ſeated: and, if a chair be not properly ſituated for your reception, will move one himſelf for your uſe: he will ſit down by you; and, as a young man will be naturally abaſhed in the preſence of a learned man, the Doctor will propoſe a few ſimple queſtions, in order to bring about a little polite familiarity—ſuch as, whether you have ſerved an apprenticeſhip, or have attended a ſurgeon's practice: now, if you have, he will perhaps aſk his name, and, if the Doctor be acquainted in that part of the kingdom you come from, will naturally aſk ſome queſtions reſpecting it. He will next make himſelf acquainted with your age——for they are often curious; and, will aſk what books you have read in the anatomical way; upon which, he may make ſome remarks, and inform you of the authors neceſſary to be peruſed during the courſe of his Lectures, &c. and by way of the finiſhing ſtroke, in riſing from his chair, ——which you do at the ſame time, will very politely tell you, he ſhall be very happy to ſerve

you

you in any thing which lies in his power; and, if at any time in your progreſſion in the anatomical road, you ſhould meet with ſtumbling blocks, he will be exceeding happy to clear the way for you. Having got your ticket, with perhaps one or two more as perquiſities of ſervants belonging to the Univerſity: ſuch as, Janitors, Porters, &c. you, in bowing, give thanks for his civility—*à la Françoiſe*—and retire.

CHAP. III.

THUS, in nearly the ſame manner, will you proceed, and be received and treated by the other profeſſors of the different branches of medical knowledge; allowing for the differences in degrees of genius; the differences in methods of breeding, and civil education; the differences in tempers, diſpoſitions, and affections: laſtly, their different ſtudies, produce differences in their methods of behaviour; however, ſtill conducted by politeneſs, affability, and other good qualities

qualities and virtues? I am charitable enough to advance ſuch ſentiments, altho' perhaps, deviations may occur—I know many of them to be praiſe-worthy men, men of keen penetration, and of knowledge univerſal as is their genius; but ſhew me the man who is blameleſs, having no failings? That man does not exiſt——ſuch perfection is incompatable with the mortal ſtate—Now, among ſome profeſſors there would ſeem to be a ſpirit of envy, and ſuch ambitious principles as cauſe each to endeavour in his Lectures, to excel——hunting for baſeleſs fame! When this inſatiable thirſt for renown and excellence in literature, ariſes from motives of advantage to ſcience, and of conſequence, to men in general, it is of all things the moſt to be commended; but again, when it nouriſhes animoſity, jarring diſcord, and other baſe vices—I condemn it, and ſo do you, I venture to affirm.

This, gentlemen, is ſhading in a dark ground; which, you know, is often neceſſary for the dignity and beauty of the whole—yet, it may be hinted, it would be too raſh always to judge of the *whole* from a knowledge only of ſome of *its* parts—moreover, I adviſe you, upon all occaſions

ſions, in all places, and under all circumſtances, to render proper reſpect to the profeſſors of your ſtudies; for, it will ſeldom happen, they will give you cauſe to behave otherwiſe towards them: indeed, this advice is hardly neceſſary—'tis natural in a young man to look on his teacher, the teacher of ſcience! with veneration and regard. Behold the aged ſage! ſtooping under the load of years, yet propt by knowledge, grey-headed, with wrinkled front and viſage twiſted, the ſtamp of ſtudy!——Is he not a venerable figure!—does he not command protection and reſpect? do we not revere him from ſilent inſpiration?—Yea!—and all this more ſincerely beſtowed, with inward ſympathetic pleaſure, than monarchs commonly receive: but, ſays a king to a ſubject, and is ſuch a man to receive more reverence than myſelf? Is he to be more venerated, more reſpected? Yes—O Sire!—his age demands protection, and his wiſdom and knowledge, approaching to divinity! lead us to give him reverence. To you, O Sire! homage is paid, and humble reſpect and ſubmiſſion, and reverence, and all that can be required from a ſubject to his Lord——

Mais,

Mais, en voici le motif—C'eſt parcequ'on vous craint, on vous flatte, on veut gagner de faveurs, and ſo forth, ſeldom proceeding from the heart, point blank, diſintereſted, unbiaſſed. This again is not always the caſe---God forbid it ſhould! Kings often deſerve and receive, genuine love, impartial veneration, and the moſt ſincere and loyal and humble reſpect and regard—as an inſtance—it ſprings this moment from the heart—

God ſave and protect his Majeſty King George the Third!

CHAP. IV.

CAN you make any thing of the laſt chapter? I believe not much—yet I recollect it contains a tolerably uſeful advice with regard to your profeſſors, which I hope you will remember and attend to: and now, we will go on to another branch of the profeſſion——what ſhall it be? ſhall it be Natural Philoſophy? no, it ſhall not be Natural Philoſophy in its extended view; but,

but it ſhall be natural philoſophy confined to particulars—that is, it ſhall take into conſideration the doctrine of heat and cold—cold is nothing—the doctrine of mixture—the doctrine of compoſition and decompoſition—from which by the bye, you will learn the nature of chemical attraction, and repulſion—the doctrine of fermentation—evaporation, ſublimation—and, condenſa-*ti-on*! laſtly, the doctrine of doctrines—there are alſo other operations, ſolution, fuſion, chriſtalization, &c.—now, what do I mean by all theſe *jaw-breaking* terms? They all belong to a very ſimple branch, a branch amuſive and inſtructive; it is chemiſtry.

CHAP. IV.

YOU are now for this winter, engaged in the ſtudy of anatomy and chemiſtry; on theſe ſubjects you read good authors—in the choice of which you are guided by the direction of the profeſſors, and you can procure the books they

recommend from the library of the Univerſity; but as ſuch authors will be neceſſary for your own growing library, I adviſe you to purchaſe them, as you can then do with them as you ſhall pleaſe; ſuch as obliging ſome worthy young men, your friends, with the peruſal of them, who, perhaps, have it not in their power to buy them. Always ſtudy to be uſeful to others: and thus you will be eſteemed, and will enjoy a conſcious ſatisfaction. Deſpiſe not fellow ſtudents, becauſe they are poor; bright geniuſes are often *her* victims, and *poverty* in *ſuch* is the grand incentive to the nobleſt of inventive deeds.

Now I do not wiſh you to ſtudy too much. Too much ſtudy injures the mental powers, and of conſequence, the bodily organs. When you are diſpoſed to read, read: when you are not diſpoſed for reading, do not read; when, in reading, your head achs, your mind becomes confuſed, and you do not rightly digeſt what you read; then is the time to leave off; proceed no farther, take up the violin, ſtrike up a ſolo, ſonata, an overture, or *Joy to great Ceſar*—if this be above your ability, touch off

a jig, a country dance, a march, a minuet, or *Alley Crocker*. If you can't play at all, I adviſe you to learn, and for this purpoſe dedicate one hour, at leaſt, of the diurnal revolution.

Muſic is the nurſe of ſtudy, and of many ſocial and grand virtues.

> The man that has no muſic in himſelf,
> And is not mov'd with concord of ſweet ſounds,
> Is fit for treaſons, ſtratagems, and ſpoils;
> The motions of his ſpirit are dull as night,
> And his affections dark as *Erebus*,
> Let no ſuch man be truſted.
>
> (Shakeſpear)

Therefore purſue her, but let it not engroſs too much of your time, I only point it out as a relaxation and amuſement; and from theſe its other good effects are inſeparable.

The winter courſe is over, and you have now acquired knowledge in anatomy, ſurgery, and chemiſtry; you know the definition of an animal body; you know the nature and properties of its component parts; you know the ſtructure of organs; you know the uſes of the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, medulla ſpinalis, and the uſes of the various nerves. You are alſo ſkilled in the doctrine of the pineal gland,

gland, and a few other zig-zag ſtrokes in meta-phyſical darkneſs. Again you know the uſe of the epidermis, cuticula and membrana adepoſa, miliary glands, &c. the uſe of the muſcles, the cauſe of their contractions, with the nature and philoſophy of tendons. Haller has proved it: he ſays, they have no ſenſation, and that the bad effects ariſing from the ſuppoſed violence done to a tendon, muſt be ſhifted to the conſideration of a ſufferng nerve. All this is induction from experiment—he was a clever fellow, and I have got his memoirs in French.

You know the uſe of the teeth; the uſe of the tongue; the uſe of the ſalivary glands; the uſe of the œſophagus; the uſe of the ſtomach; the uſe of the inteſtines; and the uſe of the anus: you know the uſe of the pharynx; larynx; the uſe of the lungs; the uſe of the heart; and the uſe of the arteries and veins: you know the uſe of the glands; the nature of ſecretion and excretion, and the uſe of the various fluids they ſeparate from the blood. Now, they tell us the brain is a gland, and that it prepares the animal ſpirits; but I adviſe you to conſult RYMER's Pathology. You know the uſe of the muſcles of the face, which form the features: you know the uſe of the com-

plexion

plexion, the uſe of the noſe and its form; you know the uſe of the occular muſcles, the coats and humours of the eye, and the uſe of its brilliancy.

But you don't rightly underſtand the nature of viſion—and how ſhould you? you have not yet ſtudied optics.

You know the uſes of the parts of generation in both ſexes, the uſe of the penis, and teſticles in men, with their appendages—the uſe of the mons veneris, labia pudenda, clitoris, vagina, uterus, falopian tubes, ovaria, divil's bit, in woman; together with the doctrine of the menſes and generation of the fœtus. As for the bones, cartilages, and ligaments, &c. the ſtudy is eaſy and mechanical.

With regard to chemiſtry, I have already given you ſome hints, and I conjecture you have by this time acquainted yourſelf with many other particulars I omitted, ſuch as its objects, &c. and who it was that melted the golden calf and reduced it to powder.

CHAP.

CHAP. VI.

SUCH is the nature of the human mind, the more it learns the deeper it wants to penetrate into the hiden myſteries of creation; now, we will wave myſteries, and meddle only with ſuch objects of knowledge as are eaſily comprehended, either quickly by the keenneſs of genius, or, tediouſly, by ſtudy, if the acuteneſs of natural parts be wanting: we hunt after knowledge, as does the miſer or *rich man* for the accumulation of gold, never ſatisfied—in ſhort, it is a principle implanted in the ſoul by the divinity; and, as the human mind can never arrive at perfection in the preſent ſtate, ſo that principle is always in action. Indeed it is moſt wiſely inſtituted, ſeeing the rational ſoul is immortal, and denied perfection in its ſubſtantial confinement. The brute, whoſe living principle, and all the powers of action, meet with annihilation at the concluſion of its preſent exiſtence, gains the utmoſt degree of perfection and accompliſhment, both of mind, ☞if it may have one—and bodily organs, in a very

ſhort

ſhort portion of time—the contrary happens to man, the longer he lives the more he learns; each ſucceſſive day brings new objects of contemplation and improvement: and is not this an inconteſtible circumſtance in favour of the ſoul's immortality? I think it is—indeed, I never harboured a different opinion of it; and, who is the man who does? I never yet met with him—when I do, I will adviſe him to quit ſociety, and will befriend him ſo much as powerfully to recommend him to the managers of Bedlam, or to thoſe of ſome ſuch analogous aſylum, where he may meet with neceſſary treatment.

The doubt of this grandeſt ſource of happineſs muſt neceſſarily proceed from ſome defect in the mental powers; if it does not, it originates from one of the following cauſes:

1. In a mind conſcious of having lead a life of infernal proſtitution and capital wickedneſs; from a dread, a horrid dread! of neceſſary puniſhment in a future ſtate.

2. From innate literary pride and ſpirit of contradiction. When an author in his work, phyſical or metaphyſical, has unguardedly, or deſignedly, given ſome foul hints, that his opinion of rewards

and

and puniſhments, and of the immortality of the ſoul, was altogether repugnant to the principles of reaſon, and religion, he will impiouſly proceed, villain like! in the defence of his ſacrilegious courſe.

3. There is a ſet of mortal wretches, who indulge themſelves in argumentation of this dangerous tendency, from motives of being thought deep in metaphyſical learning—ſhallow blockheads!

If theſe geniuſes would but hearken to the ſimpleſt reaſon, I would lay four-pence to a farthing, I ſhould find a lad of fifteen fully able to overturn their irrational doctrine.

Again, there is a ſet of men—ſhadows of nonentity! who advance a doctrine, not of any dangerous tendency, but far more abſurd than the former—they deny their own exiſtence!—does this not prove they do exiſt? and, aſſert there is no ſuch thing as matter, body, or ſubſtance. This is ſo ſelf-evidently erroneous, it will by no means admit of controverſy—ha! where am I ſoaring to? *en verité*! I had almoſt gain'd the very upper node of the metaphyſical orbit: now I will fly off at a tangent—and if I

can

can ſo manage as to acquire projectile force enough to overcome central attraction, I will give Botany ſuch a percuſſion as ſhall make her believe a horſe kickt her——now for it! once! twice! thrice!!

CHAP. VII.

NOW I have travelled in all ſorts of roads. I have travelled in your ſtrait roads, your crooked roads, your convex and concave roads, your roads angular, rectangular, acute, and obtuſe—I have travelled in your roads circular, ſerpentine, curvilineal, and alſo in plain roads; moreover I have journied in ſmooth roads, in ſoft roads, in hard roads, in rough roads, in ſtony roads, in muddy roads; and laſtly in ſluſhy roads; but in all my born days I never travelled in ſuch a path as the laſt,—'tis the road of roads! and leads to the verge of creation; and when you get there, if you don't mind your eye, you'll be hurled up to the pinnacle of perdition, where ſouſe you will tumble

headlong into the rueful dun abyſs of black chaos which bounds the north weſt confine of the vaſt univerſe.

Now the road taken by itſelf, or conſidered abſtractedly, is as ſtraight a line as the cleverest mathematician can draw—I defy any thing, Sir, to be ſtraighter. The projectile force of your progreſſion will not be diminiſhed, for there is no obſtacle to offer oppoſition; and, as for friction there is no ſuch thing!—you will alſo be beyond and clear of the ſpheres of attraction of all bodies whatſover, and, you may march on as ſmoothly as if you were ſwimming in *materia ſubtilis*—provided agreeable to the laws of ſpecific Gravity. Notwithſtanding, there are inconveniences you muſt carefully avoid; and in order to this, a clever pilot is abſolutely neceſſary; if you have no pilot you will moſt certainly be brain-wreck'd, man wreckt, and devil wreckt: for, on each ſide of the main road there are little creeks, and alleys and bays, which lead into horrid gulfs where nothing is to be ſeen but direful ſhoals, rocks, dreadful breakers, ſunken obſtacles, &c. Here are alſo tempeſts ſuch as never man beheld; darkneſs wildly reigns, hurricanes, hail, diluvian ſhowers, ſnow and ſleet, fell thunder and dread lightning,

lightning, infernal meteors, with *Will o'the wiſp*, and ſtraggling comets whoſe trains are horrible.

CHAP. VIII.

I ſaid the winter courſe was over; and now I ſuppoſe you are idle with regard to lectures—could you wiſh to remain ſo all the ſummer? if you do, your wiſhes will be *vanity and vexation of ſpirit*; you are not come here to hunt for pleaſure and amuſement only; your young mind is now entered upon ſcience, and you muſt proceed indefatigably in the purſuit of knowledge, obſerving the rules I have laid down about ſtudy in a former chapter.

As I do not intend to engage you in too much buſineſs at once, I will this ſummer deſire you only to beſtow attention to a courſe of lectures on Botany; it is a branch of natural knowledge neceſſary to be underſtood by the phyſician, conſequently it makes a part of the medical ſcience.

It requires no great exertion of genius to comprehend it; it is a ſimple and engaging ſtudy, but requires memory.

Here you will have the productions of the vegetable world divided into claſſes, orders, genera, and ſpecies, according to the analogical forms of their parts. The morning is generally ſet apart for this ſtudy, being moſt agreeable, and beſt adapted. The mind is then clear and unconfuſed; and, in ſhort all things conſpire to render the buſineſs delightful. It invigorates health; and, as the botanical gardens are commonly without the city, you breathe a pure uncontaminated air, and have a beautiful proſpect of things.

Would it not be ſhameful to waſte the whole ſummer on botany alone? Why, I think it would, notwithſtanding what I have ſaid; wherefore I muſt engage you in ſome other matters, which will evidently turn to your advantage.

Mayhap you have not ſtudied Euclid's Elements of Geometry; and as you will not be able properly to comprehend natural Philoſophy and Aſtronomy without this aid, I will put you to the ableſt maſter in order to ſtudy it. This ſtudy may at firſt appear dry, and unengaging, but that

muſt

muſt not avert your attention from the purſuit of it: as you proceed therein, you will admire it above all things—here are no ſtumbling blocks, no doubts, no uncertainties, and your young mind will be agreeably entertained with truths daily ariſing to your contemplation, which no reaſoning can contradict or overturn. Many evident advantages reſult from the knowledge of geometry, you will thereby be enabled to reaſon *ſoundly* and unconfuſedl yon many abſtruſe particulars in all concerns of the human mind.

This is not all—do you underſtand French? the French are an ingenious and learned people, and there are many excellent authors among them; they are good naturaliſts, good chemiſts, philoſophers, aſtronomers, hiſtorians, &c. whoſe works in that language do honour to the world. Therefore, to enable you to read them, I adviſe you to learn it; which you will ſoon do, as it is ſimple and eaſily comprehended—— procure a maſter who underſtands it methodically and grammatically, and pronounces it properly. It is a polite tongue—and, if you can ſpeak it, ſo much the better—as one day or other the maggot may ſo bite as to cauſe you to pay a viſit to that ſprightly and facetious nation.

CHAP.

CHAP. IX.

I find the botanical profeſſor has finiſhed his courſe, but you have not yet got thro' Euclid's Elements; neither have you compleated your French——you know the ſounds of the letters of the alphabet, you know the articles, nouns, pronouns and regular verbs; and I find you are now engaged in the irregulars, in reading, tranſlation and compoſition, which you muſt properly compleat——it will not take up too much time.

It is now October—the ſtudents begin to aſſemble, and the profeſſors have got their lectures ready, what will you ſtudy this winter? You wiſh to be a clever fellow all at once; but that will not do—diſadvantages attend it—I am intereſted in your welfare, and as I will give you proper advice, you ought at leaſt to follow my direction: that granted—I will engage you this winter in the ſtudy of——

1. Anatomy,

1. Anatomy,
2. Chemiſtry,
3. The inſtitutions of Medicine,
4. The practice of Phyſic.

With regard to the firſt and ſecond, if you beſtow proper attention to the lectures, and experiments only, it will be ſufficent; I mean you will have little or no ocaſion to apply yourſelf to books on the ſubject; becauſe, you already have knowledge therein. But, in reſpect to the inſtitutions of medicine, and the practice of phyſic, you muſt not only give neceſſary attention to the lectures, but muſt alſo read the beſt authors thereon: the profeſſors will point them out; for my own part I never gave much attention to books, for this reaſon, becauſe the generality contain differences of opinion, and many of them groſs abſurdities; beſides, a profeſſor commonly tips us ſomething new, and I like novelty, taking particular care not to be led aſtray—but then I was diligent, and took down notes.

By the practice of phyſic, and methodical noſology, you will be enabled to make diſtinction in diſeaſes: for the various diſorders incident

to

to the human body, are ranged into claſſes, orders, genera, and ſpecies——you will alſo become acquainted with their cauſes and cures.

The Inſtitutions of medicine will learn you all that is ſpeculative in the ſcience.

CHAP. X.

THE Winter's courſe is again ended, and you have poſited by the lectures you have attended—you are ſtill purſuing the mathematics and French; in which you have made a tolerable progreſs, but I would not yet have you to leave off.

You will now again apply to botany, and if you improve properly therein, by diligent attendance, it will be unneceſſary to attend a third courſe.

The third Winter approaches, and we will now reflect upon the lectures neceſſary to be attended.

With

With regard to the ſtudy of anatomy, you cannot underſtand it too well; 'tis the baſe of medicine upon which the grand ſuperſtructure muſt be raiſed.

Chemiſtry, alſo, as I have already obſerved, is a very neceſſary ſtudy; it clears and poliſhes our conceptions of many uſeful particulars, and the more you know of it the better.

Whether it will be neceſſary to attend a third courſe, I cannot well determine; it will depend upon your genius, the application you have beſtowed, and the knowledge you have acquired. If your genius be *acute*, your judgment *ſound*—an ambiguous word—and your attention to lectures has been diligent, your non-attendance of lectures on anatomy and chemiſtry might not be attended with any very diſadvantageous conſequences; but this I leave to your own deciſion--and it will depend ſomewhat on the time you can ſpare. I will therefore proceed on the footing of your omitting anatomy and chemiſtry—and will now go on to point out the branches you are this Winter to attend.

The theory and practice of medicine go together—it would be unphiloſophical to ſeparate

them; for he who practiſes without being able to advance concluſive reaſons for his procedure in particulars, cuts a lame and deſpicable figure.

Natural Philoſophy.

In the material world, nothing can preſent itſelf to the ſenſes which is not an object of natural philoſophy. It takes into conſideration all the actions of things, and explains all the phenomena of nature. To be a ſkillful and able phyſician, without the knowledge of natural Philoſophy, is as impoſſible as it would be abſurd in me, this moment to throw myſelf from the round-houſe into the ſea——Longitude weſt 50 Latitude north 15——if I did, it is ten to one but a ſhark would make a fair ſection of my ſyſtem. Now you muſt know the *Round-Houſe* is the after-moſt and higheſt apartment of a ſhip; and there is a convex deck over head, by way of a roof, from which I conjecture it takes its name; but, in fact, it is no more round than my———

CHAP.

CHAP. XI.

I was forced to quit the laſt chapter ſomewhat abruptly; but now I have got rid of it, will proceed modeſtly, methodically, immethodically, and, in ſhort, as I ought to proceed.

Materia Medica—you know the Engliſh of that—don't you? What has a profeſſor of this branch to do with the animal œconomy? it does not belong to his department—and I would adviſe he might drop it, and ſubſtitute ſomething elſe more compatible with the ſubject of his oratory. I mention it becauſe they generally make this the prologue to their lectures—indeed all of them are guilty of invaſions—perhaps to ſpin out the time, ☞ there is no harm in it.

By ſtudying the Materia Medica, you will become acquainted with all the medicines, uſed in the curing and prevention of diſeaſes—their natures, effects, and methods of operating.

You are therefore this winter to ſtudy the following branches:

1. Natural

1. Natural Philoſophy,
2. Materia Medica,
3. Theory of Medicine,
4. The practice of Phyſic.

Natural philoſophy is the moſt pleaſing, the moſt engaging, the moſt uſeful, and——I was juſt going to ſay, the moſt neceſſary of all ſtudies; which you may analyze as you pleaſe: it is particularly connected with medicine, and as I hinted, a neceſſary part of medical education. By it, you will be enabled to account for various changes and effects produced in the animal body, by natural cauſes——but I think it neceſſary to conclude the chapter ☞ and, ſo I will.

Chap. XII.

YOU are now an anatomiſt, a ſurgeon, a chemiſt, a botaniſt, a medical doctor, theoretical and practical, a connoiſſeur in drugs, a mathematician, and a natural philoſopher——Now, what ſhall you be next; why, when the next

Winter

Winter comes I will tell you—in the mean time, as your profeſſors have finiſhed the reading, and deliverance of their lectures for the ſeaſon, and you are almoſt idle, I do not mean to be ſevere with you during the Summer——you may go and viſit your relations and friends, if you like it—and, if not, why you may do as you pleaſe, only attending to what I am about to ſay——— namely—that it frequently happens young men in your way, and under the ſame circumſtances, become ruſty in the Latin tongue. Now as you cannot cleverly, and with a good face, procure your deploma, without a conſiderable knowledge in that vehicle of thought, it would be neceſſary perhaps, to beſtow ſome attention to it: for, it is ſhameful, according to the preſent mode of graduation, when a young man is forced to apply for aſſiſtance in the tranſlation of his Theſis.

Again, the mathematics will be particularly uſeful in a courſe of lectures you are to attend next Winter; I therefore caution you to apply alſo to geometry; but, if it ſo falls out you are properly ſkilled both in the mathematics and Latin tongue, then the greateſt part of this chapter might as well have been left out.

CHAP.

CHAP. XIII.

TIME is now precious——and, that it may not be ill applied, you muſt vigorouſly purſue.

1. The theory of Medicine,
2. The practice of Phyſic,
3. Midwifery,—and
4. Aſtronomy.

Perhaps you do not mean to act the part of the Accoucheur—no matter, your ſtudies cannot be properly compleated without ſkill in the art of delivery, and extraction of the Fœtus. Your aſſiſtance may one time or other be required; and, you would appear rather ſilly in declaring your ignorance of that branch———beſides, the world is very capricious, and it might injure your practice and character—therefore ſtudy it.

You may be a very able phyſician without the knowledge of Aſtronomy, but you will be *much more* ſo by having ſtudied it. It effectualy re-

moves prejudices of various kinds——expands the underſtanding—and, aggrandizes our notions of all things:——laſtly, ſome effects reſulting from our vicinity to the ſun and moon, in conſequence of the powers and modifications of attraction, and heat, excited on animal bodies——and again, the effects produced by changes in the atmoſphere by——&c. may, from knowledge in Aſtronomy, be ſatisfactorily accounted for———In order to the accompliſhment of this you may

1. Pay a viſit to the Earth's center of Gravity, to gain intelligence of attraction—that done, you can return either upwards or downwards—for you are in a place equi-diſtant from the ſuperficies.

2. You muſt make a journey to the moon and ſun—and, before you ſet out, I adviſe you to take the opportuniy of an eclipſe of the ſun. Now, you muſt lay hold of the line of direction, and go up *hand over hand*——but, as you may meet with ſome difficulty in getting paſt a particular point, called the common center of gravity between the earth and moon, I adviſe you to give yourſelf a ſudden jerk, and you will immediately

diately find yourſelf diſentangled--you now proceed boldly, your momentum conſtantly encreaſes, and your velocity is uniformly accelerated as the ſquare of your diſtance from the Moon diminiſhes. You are only half a degree, we will ſay, from the Moon's ſurface, and now you muſt take a *round turn* ☞ *with that ſtopper*, or clap on a *Gaſket* and make a *clove hitch*.———Here you ſtop to take a fair view of objects in the Moon—its continents, mountains, hills, dales, rivers, lakes, woods, trees, ſhurbs, oceans, iſlands, ſeas, gulphs, and bays, intelligent creatures, and brutes—but I will finiſh the chapter that I may not diſturb your contemplation.

CHAP. XIV.

IF your remarks on the Moon be finiſhed, you may in like manner proceed to the Sun; but here I muſt caution you to beware of exſiccation calcination, and ſublimation--thence you can take a flying leap to a Comet, if there be one in view—

for

for my own part, I would not go there—ſome ſay they are the places of the damned; others, again, contradict it, and alledge they are meant as fuel for the ſun—but however that be, ſpectator-like, I will only obſerve, much might be ſaid on both ſides.——If you do not reliſh the notion of a viſit to the Comet, you need not be at a ſtand—Mercury is near at hand—then Venus—here, beware of *letchery*—next comes the Earth, where you may call as you paſs to Mars, and tell us the news—from Mars you proceed to Jupiter—but take care to ſteer clear of his ſatellites; and, laſtly, you go to Saturn, where you will arrive without oppoſition, if you don't go bump againſt his ring—as for the fixed ſtars, you may leave them till another opportunity.

CHAP. XV.

I will give you very little more advice with regard to your ſtudies; becauſe, you are now able to think and act with propriety. If any o-

ther aſſiſtance be wanting before you attempt your theſis, you will, of your own accord, judge what it ought to be—and, with reſpect to your procedure in acquiring the degrees of doctor of medicine, you know the methods purſued as well as myſelf.

Now, it may be aſked—what is to be the grand reſult of all your ſtudies and knowledge? —you may tell me, to acquire money and fame, by doing good to your fellow creature.

To do good, and to be uſeful to mankind, is certainly the moſt commendable and moſt rational purſuit of the human mind—to this, many men are ſpurred on from motives of ſatisfying an ambitious thirſt of glory, and a ſtill baſer and more ignoble motive of amaſſing wealth—and, I am ſory to find, that the profeſſion is very much debaſed by many men of this meaneſt of characters--fauning miſcreants! after having done the buſineſs of their viſit in the houſe of ſad affliction and gloomy mourning, they'll wheedle and cringe, and, *thief-like*, ſhove their *vile* hands behind their backs to ſnatch at gold ☞ a *turd* would ſuit them better!—Now, I hope you will not be one of this ſtamp—hunt not after fame—ſhe will mark and find

find you out—you will have no occaſion to ſound your own trumpet, ſhe'll do it for thee. Again, let not the accumulation of riches lead you aſtray—'tis only a ſecondary motive, and given as a token of gratitude—never—O! never oppreſs the poor—viſit them as a duty incumbent upon you, and by this means you will thrive in all your laudable undertakings. But, the grand end of all our knowledge, is, not only to make us happy in all ſtates and circumſtances of affliction and proſperity in this life, by having recourſe to the cheering comforts of religion, and the unerring guides of *ſound* philoſophy; but it, at the ſame time, may effectually ſecure an eternal felicity in the never-ending ſtate of awful immortality—Now, I am no bigot—neither do I harbour prejudice—I ſtudy to acquire clear and unconfuſed ideas of things, and always endeavour to examine all objects in their natural and proper lights—and, in the way of religion, without any ſtrict reference to the doctrines and variouſly abſurd ceremonial forms of ſectaries, and, have found that a virtuous proceeding, and due adherence to, the principles of our revealed *Chriſtian* religion, afford the trueſt and moſt unalte-

rable

rable ſources of our greateſt happineſs—therefore, follow the paths of virtue, and hold ſacred all the principles of your religion!—never make uſe of any particulars in ſacred writ for the ſubjects of ridicule—avoid the company of thoſe who do, as men of narrow minds (however otherwiſe expanded) and even of degenerated proſtitution—ſuch men are unworthy of ſociety—what tho', in ſome capital points perhaps, our comprehenſion be too limited to acquire ſatisfactory notions? are we, *therefore*, impiouſly to entertain ſuch doubts as tend to infernal purpoſes?—by no means—for, the *knowledge* of ſome particulars *is* purpoſely concealed from our ſcrutiny, as being unneceſſary in our preſent ſtate.

Attend public worſhip regularly, for there is always ſome good to be acquired by it; and the knowledge you poſſeſs will prevent your giving way to prejudice and ſuperſtition—diſpiſe no man becauſe he belongs to a different ſect: and, if you enter upon any religious point with him in argumentation, and find his notions not only contrary to your own, but even ſuperſtitious and unreaſonable, convince him of his error, if he will receive your advice and hearken to conviction;

viction: but, as matters of this kind are commonly deeply rooted, and often yield happineſs in unlettered minds, it would peradventure, be both difficult and unjuſt to produce an alteration of ſentiment.

CHAP. XVI.

WHereas, phyſicians generally appear in your cities, and other grand receptacles of men, with ſwords, which are conſidered rather as articles of faſhionable and formal dreſs, than as tools of protection from inſult, I adviſe you, if you wear a ſword, to look upon it in a very different light—by all means learn the art of uſing it—'tis a noble exerciſe, and a moſt uſeful accompliſhment—procure a ſkillful maſter ☞ *maitre d' armes*—hem! and acquaint yourſelf with the polite method of gracefully tipping a *cool* thruſt—with the art of pareying the ſame—carte and tierce, low carte—ſegoon—or the flanconade! &c. Thus accompliſhed, the bullying coward

coward will check his inſolence, deterred—it may be a grand reſource in ſome honourable and particular emergencies, and give nouriſhment to fortitude and courage.

Again, I adviſe you never to unſheath a Blade, but in ſelf-defence—and—O!—never encourage duelling—tis the abſurdeſt of all abſurdities!—and a horrid diſgrace to the cultivated world. If any man, *poſitively*, threatens the diſſolution of your fabric by any inſtrument of death whatever, draw your Farrara, and, if you can, inſtantly make a paſſage for the rays of light thro' his corporation: but, it might be better and more laudable to diſable him only, by dividing ſome of the extenſors of the arm, &c.—and this muſt only be attempted by a man well ſkilled and experienced in the art.

Yet, from what I have ſaid, you might conclude I recommend duelling—now, you would be much deceived, for, in fact, I do not. Self-defence is pointed out by nature, and takes place among all animals whatever—by attention to this, you may, in moſt caſes, ſhun the private rendezvous—take no advantage of any man; and, again, let no man take the advantage of

thee

thee—uſe reaſon and equity—attend to the laws of humanity—conſider the ſhortneſs of the duration of exiſtence, and the uncertainty of its continuance—reflect upon the nature of the ſoul, and conſider immortality, and the awful conſideration of being ſummoned to the ſacred bar deprived of a previous and moſt neceſſary preparation——and thus, as you are a man of knowledge, you may eaſily and honourably manage all matters of this very important, and, moſt ſerious nature.

CHAP. XVII.

WIth regard to exerciſe, and ſome other particulars very neceſſary to be obſerved, I will juſt make a few ſhort remarks, and give you ſome inſtruction thereupon.

The ſedentary life, with cloſe application to ſtudy, have a very dangerous tendency in reſpect to health; and, to avoid the bad effects they produce, uſe exerciſe---the modes of which may differ

differ according to the place you are in: but, you can always conſult your inclination in fixing upon which you think the moſt eligible—— walking is a natural exerciſe, and you muſt not be ſparing therein——again, there is riding on horſe-back---there is hunting---and there is the exerciſe of ſhooting, &c.——but in all your actions, ſtudiouſly ſhun every tendency to cruelty ——and, here, I make a reference to phyſiology, comparative anatomy, and other particulars of your profeſſion.—To inhumanly and wantonly diſſect, mangle, tear and torment, in a variety of ways, the animal creation, is ſavagerey and horrid cruelty, which no pleading can juſtify!—!—

Your amuſements muſt be innocent, philoſophical and improving——you may attend concerts of muſic, public and private: aſſemblies and plays---avoiding to deſerve the character of petit-maître and cox-comb, for it is deteſtable, and a metamorphoſing of the man into the feminine ſtate.

Now, it is common at univerſities, and other ſeminaries of general learning, to find many of the young, as well as ſome of the old, ſtudents, addicted to various vices---neglecting the proſecution

cution of their ſtudies, forſaking the road of morality and virtue——devoting themſelves to every known wickedneſs, as well as to *ſome* of late invention, rendering themſelves odious ojects of juſt contempt and abhorrence in the eyes of all reaſonable men.

Evil company corrupts good manners. This is a fact corroberated by daily experience and obſervation—therefore, dear youth! enter not into this black liſt of evil doers: and, the better to avoid it, check—very early check! every biaſs in your inclination to the drinking of wines and ſpirituous liquors———'tis the direct road to perdition—the inlet of all vices—and, if you are once entered into it, you will find it a very hard taſk to return. See the drunkard! is he not at once an object of pity, deriſion, and abomination? is he not a burthen to himſelf, a diſgrace to his fellow creatures, and a moſt uſeleſs being to ſociety? you will not find his parallel in the whole animal creation. If the brutes were addicted to this vice, I would plead in their behalf—but, as for man—the lord of the Creation! who would be ſo vilely proſtituted to evil as to ſtand his advocate in ſuch a cauſe?

PART II.

CHAP. I.

I have hitherto ſuppoſed you a young man of fortune and eaſy circumſtances in life; and that you have ſtudied medicine more from motives of inclination, than from any neceſſary views of acquiring a living thereby: but, we will now change the hypotheſis, and ſuppoſe you, as is often the caſe, a young man propoſing to be an adventurer in the world, only poſſeſſed of ſome medical and chirurgical knowledge as your fortune.

You wiſh to go into the Navy as ſurgeon's mate; becauſe, perhaps, you have not intereſt enough to procure a place in the army——and you are unſkilled in the method of ſuch proceeding—I will tell you.

You go to London, if you are not there already—if you are, you moſt go to the Navy Office, and wait upon Mr. ——, or the gentleman

man who acts in his ſtead—you muſt inform him you want to enter into the Navy as Surgeon's Mate; and that you would be glad of a letter to the examining ſurgeons at the hall, in order to paſs and receive qualifications———for this, you will have to pay one ſhilling——you carry it to the Surgeon's Hall, and deliver it——and the firſt paſſing day thereafter, you muſt attend at the ſaid hall, where in your turn, you will be called in before the Surgeons.—If theſe gentlemen are not diſpoſed to be croſs, ill-humored, ſevere and medically pedantic, but are polite, affable, indulgent, and have conſidered how they would have wiſhed, in younger days, to be treated in ſuch caſes—together with that innate modeſty, baſhfulneſs, and diffidence ſo becoming, and ſo frequently occuring in young men, they will treat you in a manner doing honour to their office and profeſſion, as men of education, decorum, *politeſſe*; and, laſtly, as men of indulgence. They will aſk perhaps,

1. Whether you have ſerved an apprentiſhip, how long? and, where?

2. Whether you have attended hoſpitals, lectures on anatomy, &c.

3. Your

3. Your age and country.

4. The number of muſcles, coats and humors of the eyes, with their uſes—the muſcles of the abdomen—or, the uſe of the kidnies, ureters, and bladder of urine—or, the uſe of the liver, its veſſels, and ſecreted fluids—the circulation of the blood—or, ſome ſuch ſimple queſtions in anatomy.

5. How you would treat a ſcald in all its circumſtances of inflammation, digeſtion, &c.

6. How you would proceed in a ſuppreſſion of urine from inflammation of the bladder, ſpaſm of its ſphincter, muſcle, &c.

7. How you would act in the caſe of a ſimple inflammatory fever.

8. The nature of a white ſwelling with, perhaps, the operation of amputation.

9. How you would proceed in a caſe of an abſceſs following any acute diſeaſe, ſuch as any general fever. Here any old woman might give a ſatisfactory anſwer.

If they be pleaſed with your anſwers, they will deſire you to retire—and upon your going into the outter hall, the porter will give you joy, and you may tip him half a crown for his trouble.

Your

Your qualifications will be ſent to the Navy Office, where you muſt again go and wait upon Mr.———; you tell him you have no friend, and that you would eſteem it a particular favor if he would procure you the firſt vacancy. Now, at all public offices, little can be had without money——

" For who would bear——
" The inſolence of office, and the ſpurns
" That patient merit of th'unworthy takes,
" When he himſelf might his quietus make
" By tipping a ſimple guinea ?

You call at different times to know what may have fallen out, till, at laſt, you get a warrant—you will now be ſworn in to be true and loyal to your ſovereign, and religion——and muſt damn the Pope and Pretender ! this will coſt you, at leaſt half a guinea.

The warrant ſpecifies your qualities—the ſhip you are appointed to, and the condition you are to act in, viz. Surgeons firſt, ſecond, or third Mate.

Your ſhip is now laying at Spithead--you take a place in the ſtage coach, and go down to Portſmouth—being arrived there you proceed on board either

either in a wherry—or, in a boat belonging to the ſhip, if there happens to be one on ſhore—you will be received on board, by an Midſhipman, a Mate, or a Lieutenant——you enquire for the Captain, or, in his abſence, for the commanding Officer; you ſhew him your warrant, which will be given to the Captain's Clerk that he may inſert your name and quality, &c. on the ſhip's book, and you will have it returned, and muſt preſerve it for future uſes.

You next enquire for the Surgeon, if you pleaſe, and you let him know your office, as one of the faculty—he will no doubt behave to you with politneſs and civility, as will alſo the other officers of the ſhip. The Surgeon will conduct you to the place, commonly called the Cock-Pit, alloted for the faculty; and if there be other ſurgeon's mates on board, will introduce you to their acquaintance. You muſt purchaſe bedding, and ſome other neceſſaries; the nature of which you will learn on board.

You might aſk the Surgeon's advice with regard to where you ſhall meſs, who will certainly fix you agreeably. If after a trial, you find it otherwiſe, you can ſoon enroll yourſelf with

other

other Meſs-Mates—but this very ſeldom happens, and is to be avoided as much as poſſible; as, by leaving a particular meſs, without proper cauſe, you will neceſſarly procure the ill-will of gentlemen, and it may be a means of rendering your life, on board, ſomewhat unhappy.

CHAP. II.

IN the Cock-Pit, which is generally the place of your abode, you will find a ſmall table furniſhed by the Carpenter—and you will, perhaps, find it neceſſary to uſe your cheſt by way of a ſeat—here you will find a Medicine cheſt—Water-gruel Kettles, Sauce-Pans of different kinds and ſizes, for Pultices, Decoctions Fomentations, &c. Mortars and Peſtles, Spatulas, Glyſter-Pipes, Syringes and many other articles neceſſary in the way of buſineſs, and perhaps *diet*.

You will alſo find a locker for your platters, plates diſhes and wooden bowls--there is a drawer in thetable for your knives and forks—or, taken ſimply in the ſingular number, knife and fork; and

and there will be a nail driven into a ſtanchion or bulk-head for the ſuſpenſion of your bread-bagg. Now, you can either hang in a cott, if you have one, or in a hammock, which will be furniſhed by the Boatſwain, giving a can of grogg to any ſailor for the making of its clews and lanyards—and, as for cleets, the carpenter's mate will make and drive them up.

In reſpect to your duty, and the method of its conduction, I will make the following obſervations:

It is now ſix, ſeven, or eight o'clock in the evening, as ſhall be thought moſt proper, and you ſend for the ſick, lame, lazy, and wounded, provided they be in a condition to wait upon you—if not, you muſt go and viſit them; carefully attending to their complaints, and judiciouſly reflecting upon ſuch medicines as are beſt qualified for their cures—and it might be neceſſary to ſee the medicines taken: neceſſary attention muſt alſo be beſtowed with regard to their diet and drink.

Having ſeen thoſe between decks, &c. you go down to the Cock-pit where you find others not ſo ill, but complaining of colds, rhematiſms, ackes, hemorrhoids, &c. you call them in one by

one,

one, for they ſtand without in the gang-way; you give them proper medicines, with neceſſary directions for their conduct and behaviour, as ſick men—next, you proceed with the lame and wounded, and here you will have recourſe to fomentations, embrocations, cataplaſms, &c. with proper dreſſings, and bandages; and all theſe articles ought to be previouſly in readineſs. Being all diſpatched, you cauſe your birth to be ſwabbed, ſweetened, and *ſoured* out; for here acids are often uſeful; and, all things being again put to rights, if barley water, or water gruel be wanted, cauſe the Loblolly boy to go and make ſome. This is an aſſiſtant in dreſſing, and, if he be a ſmart fellow, you will find him particularly uſeful.

Next morning, at eight, or nine o'clock, viſit thoſe in their hammocks unable to *turn out*—afterwards return to the Cock-pit, get all your neceſſaries in readineſs—ſend for the patients, ſick and lame; and, if the ſurgeon has deſired to ſee them, let him know of their being below. He will immediately deſcend if he has breakfaſted; if not, you muſt wait till he comes, which will not be long ———Here he comes! ———clear the gang-way!——He will

probably ſquat himſelf down upon the firſt cheſt which offers——the table will be nearly in the center, with medicines, &c. upon it; you ſit down oppoſite to him, having the day-book before you, with pen, ink, and paper——you immediately call out with vociferous elocution, and pronounce aloud the following words, dividing ſyllables with diſtinctneſs, *Come in one of you there!* Now, perhaps the ſurgeon may ſave you this trouble, by calling himſelf. The man enters—his caſe is enquired into—how his medicine agreed with him? what effects it produced? whether he ſweated, puked, or had a ſtool? what complaints now remain, according to the nature of the diſeaſe? This done, the ſurgeon will order him a medicine, and whether it be to the purpoſe or no, you give it, and regiſter the ſame in the day-book. The man walks out, and in comes a new hand—What is the matter with you, my lad? ſays the ſurgeon—Pains in my bones—replies the ſailor—How long have you complained? ſays the ſurgeon. I have had them for a week paſt, replies the ſailor. And, why did you not come down before? adds the ſurgeon. Becauſe I thought to weather it, ſays the ſailor——Weather it! obſerves the ſurgeon, a fine reaſon, truly—beſides,

adds

adds the ſailor, I had not a mind to be troubleſome, *an more as that I does not* like doctor's ſtuff, nor haven't ſwallow'd a grain ſince I've belonged to *her*—meaning the ſhip.

Now, the ſurgeon feels his pulſe——no fever, nor any evident ſympton of diſeaſe; however, orders a puke, a bliſter; or, *what not*, to cure the ſhulker, for his diſeaſe is deceit, and, its proximate cauſe, ignorant-idleneſs, or ſpirit of contradiction by way of revenge———Remote cauſes, twelve laſhes received from the *cat* by hand of the boatſwain's mate, and introduced into the ſyſtem the day before.

Caſes of this kind frequently happen, and proceed from various, yet anologous, remote cauſes——however, I caution you not to be too raſh in your diſtinction between a good and a bad man, treat the latter with juſtice as well as the former; but, from different motives.

In comes a third, who has complained of a cold for ſome days, and has been taking medicines for it—Well, how are you? ſays the ſurgeon—I can bear it no longer, replies the ſailor, I'm d——d if I can——Bear what? ſays the ſurgeon—It ſtinks *d———ly* ſays the ſailor, and looks black—What does the fellow mean?

ſays

ſays the ſurgeon—I'll ſhew it, replies the ſailor, ſitting down upon a cheſt, unbottoning his trowſers, and——

I met with this caſe myſelf, when ſurgeon's mate in the Navy—the Glans Penis was totally mortified, and in a ſtate of putrid corruption, the diſeaſed parts were ſeparated from the ſound, properly treated and cured——this fellow had received the infection at Cadiz about ten days before he came down to the Cock-pit complaining of his cold.

Your patients being again all diſpatched, you make out a liſt of their names, and diſeaſes, which you muſt give to the commanding officer. —Another liſt is commonly given to the ſurgeon, in order he may thereby make out one for the captain.

Some ſurgeons rather chuſe to uſe a ſmall ſick-book, which denotes in columns,

1. The time of a man's being taken ill.
2. His name.
3. His Diſeaſe, or hurt, nature of.
4. The time of his death, returning to duty, or having been ſent to an hoſpital.

If, for example, one of your men is able to return to duty this day, you look for his name in the

ſick,

ſick-book, in the column of names, and oppoſite to it in the proper column, you inſert the time of his returning to duty. Again, another complains of ſuch ſymptoms as indicate fever —you inſert the name, diſeaſe, and the time when: but nothing farther. This book you correct every morning, reſerving a copy of the ſame, and you give it to the ſurgeon, who preſents it to the captain, &c. and thus you proceed if a man is ſent to any particular hoſpital, only in this caſe you will be ſent with him to give ſome account of his diſorder and treatment to the ſurgeon of the hoſpital—and ſo forth.—

With regard to your conduct and decorum on board, I could wiſh you to behave ſo as to merit the character of a gentleman; never aſſociating with your inferiors, but in the way of duty—ſhew due reſpect to your ſuperiors—take particular care never to exhibit any abject, mean, baſe, vile, deteſtable, nefarious, cringing, principles, to obtain favour of any man whoſe lot it is to ſhine in a higher ſphere of action—for if you do, beleive me, every man of honour and judgment will abominate you as a wretch unworthy of regard, "You will be a mere traſh, upon my word."

As

As you are particularly connected with the ſurgeon of the ſhip, I would have you to ſtudy to pleaſe him in every reſpect, if he be a worthy man; if not, for the ſake of a quiet life, you may even indulge ſome failings, provided they cannot be attended with any ill conſequences. If you are capable of giving him advice and direction in particulars reſpecting your practice on board, you may attempt it when neceſſary, in a polite manner; and, if he be a man within the ſphere of inſtruction, he will not be offended, but will look upon you in a deſerving light, as a young man of merit.

CHAP. XII.

I Think I will dedicate this chapter to naval officers.

To admirals, commodores, captains, maſters and commanders, and lieutenants, the ſubject of this chapter is dedicated with ſubmiſſion and reſpect, by their moſt humble and moſt devoted ſervant.

That

That there are many ſurgeons mates in the Navy, who act in a manner unbecoming their ſtation, profeſſion, and the character of gentlemen, is a notorious fact—at the ſame time the greater number, I hope, muſt be allowed to behave in a very oppoſite mode, all their actions declaring them to be men of ſenſe, education, and decorum. The ſtation of a ſurgeon's mate is civil, from the nature of his profeſſion, having nothing to do with command, unleſs we take into conſideration ſuch perſons as may be under him in the way of duty, and here he can only have redreſs in caſe of diſreſpect and diſobedience by an application made to the captain or commanding officer; or, this he may alſo obtain through the channel of the ſurgeon; but this we leave to his own deciſion.—Now, from their having no ſort of command, as civil inferior officers, and being far removed from the ſphere of rank and power; and, becauſe ſome of them have in different ſhips and at divers times, behaved in a very ſcandalous manner, being guilty of drunkenneſs, and many other unmanly and mean vices; becauſe again, ſome ſuperior officers from raſh and undigeſted inferences, and perhaps, from an inability of making proper diſtinctions in merit and innate laudable qualities, as alſo

from

from private umbrage and ambitious meanneſs of exhibiting the power of their ſtations and ranks; it frequently happens that captains, lieutenants, &c. diveſt themſelves of the officer, the gentleman, and the man of worth, in ill-uſing ſurgeon's mates, not only with ſhamefully ſcurrilous language, and looking upon them as objects of contempt unworthy of their notice; but alſo by giving ſuch abuſe as cannot be redreſſed in the preſent ſituation of the particular ſufferer: this being often the caſe, with ſubmiſſion, would not an inſtitution of reſource and prevention be uſeful and neceſſary and at the ſame time, do honor to its author?

Again, ſome worthy young men are often ſituated with worthleſs ſurgeons; and, if the latter have got into favour with their captains, in conſequence of fauning, flattering, and cringing, qualities, it will fare the worſe with their mates; for often in this caſe, there is a ſpirit of jealouſy, malice and envy which prevails: and here I have known ſome ſurgeons ſo particularly mean as to inſinuate to captains that loblolly-boys were not neceſſary, that it was a uſeleſs indulgence; and, that ſuch men were chiefly employed as cooks, &c.—there being no ſick men on board to make ſuch perſons neceſſary, and ſuch like jargon.

Now,

Now, if the captain hearkens to this baſe inſinuation, with an intention of granting ſatisfaction to the miſcreant, he will immediately proceed to his mate, and inform him of what is about to happen—with perhaps—" that he endeavoured to prevent it; but that the captain was determined, having no hands to ſpare, to cauſe the loblolly-boy to do his duty upon deck." And to exert his malice ſtill farther, he will go forward between decks, and endeavour to find a man who will take a puke—that done, down he goes into the cock-pit, and orders his mate to mix up a grain of tartar emetic and five grains of ipecacuan, and carry to the man, with directions to ſtay by him until the operation of the vomit be over.—If in this caſe, the mate, conſcious of the vileneſs of Crocus's proceeding, endeavours to argue with him, Crocus will immediately obſerve, he is ſorry for it, that it is the captain's deſire his mates ſhall beſtow particular attention to the ſick; and, that in caſe of a refuſal, he will forthwith have them tried by a court-marſhal and turned out of the ſervice. The poor young man, friendleſs, paſſive, and unacquainted how far the vigor of a court-marſhal might be carried againſt him; and willing to ſhun the

trouble which might reſult from it, forces himſelf to comply.—Who is the captain ſo blindfolded, ſo hood-winkt, ſo *cakiſh*, ſo dull to every impulſe of reaſon and ſympathetic feeling, and cuſtomary indulgence, as to encourage and ſatiate ſuch infernal proſtitution? I believe there are but *few* of the Royal Navy of Great Britain; and indeed, no captain acquainted with the many diſagreeable circumſtances of an inferior officer's ſituation in a ſhip of war, would deny the indulgence of a loblolly-boy; 'tis even highly neceſſary for the advantage of the ſick, as there are many nameleſs particulars, both in the medical and chirurgical way which no gentlemen would require a ſurgeon's mate to perform.

CHAP. XIII.

I Should have mentioned it in its proper place, but it will do as well here—That, when at ſea, you omit your ſick liſt in the morning.

At eight o'clock at night, the watch is commonly ſet, regulated, and muſtered; and, in order

order the officer of the watch may know the men unable to perform duty, you muſt give him at that hour, a liſt of their names; and, you may act as you pleaſe with regard to the nominace or non-enumeration of their diſorders: unleſs, particularly required by the captain, or ſurgeon: for, with regard to duty, the ſurgeon is your particular director, and all changes of particulars therein ought to be enforced by him.

Now, I will finiſh the chapter with an account of an adventure which happened to myſelf, when ſurgeon's mate of a *ſixty-four*.

You muſt know, one night at ſea I delivered the liſt as uſual, a gentleman, honourable by birth, being officer of the watch. I went down to ſupper, the quarter-maſter followed, ſhoved his head into the birth, and ſaid, Sir, *He* deſires to ſpeak with you on the quarter-deck. I immediately aſcended, and was in his preſence in a pig's whiſper—He ſaid, what is the matter with what's his name?—I replied, he has a cold. He ſaid, you ſhould always mention their diſeaſes; and, then we ſhould know how to ſcreen them. I replied, perhaps, rather pertinently, Sir, you do not imagine I would put any man in the ſick liſt, who may not be capable of doing duty. He took

took one turn forwards, and then ſaid: I never was in a ſhip, Sir! where the diſeaſes of the men were not always mentioned in the ſick liſt. I replied it was not cuſtomary in this caſe. Well, Sir, ſays he, it is my order you do it, Sir!—I replied, it may be done—and went down the ladder.

Next day I informed the ſurgeon, a worthy gentleman! of what had paſſed—He ſaid, it was not cuſtomary, and that the ſurgeon was the man to produce alterations; moreover, that it would have been more to the purpoſe if the gentleman had previouſly hinted the matter to him.

About two days thereafter, I was walking the quarter-deck with the midſhipman of the ſhip, when the captain, in going into his cabbin, ſaid, Mr. ——, I want to ſpeak with you; I followed, and he began mildly as follows. Sir, Mr. —— has lodged a complaint againſt you for behaving with diſreſpect, &c. to him when officer of the watch on ſuch a night; and, that you have refuſed to ſatisfy him with regard to the ſick liſt.

The captain had little more to ſay upon the occaſion 'till the appearance of the gentleman, whom

whom he had ſent for.—He came—was much offended, and very warm on the occaſion: ſaid, I had given myſelf ſuch airs as no ſurgeon's mate would have dared to give; and, alledged circumſtances I had never dreamt of uttering; ſaid it was ſo. I ſaid it was not ſo; and appealed to the midſhipman and mate who had the watch with him that night. They being called, came in, but had nothing concluſive to advance againſt me.

Now, upon the whole, what is to be inferred? Did the gentleman mean to have had me tried by a court-marſhal, and———ſurely not!

I never was upon any intimate footing with this gentleman, neither had I conſciouſly given him any cauſe of offence—for, it is not in me to *curry* favour—even with monarchs! He is a worthy young man, in many particulars, and much of the gentleman. Being a young naval officer, if he may have ſince reflected upon this conduct, I preſume he does not altogether approve of his proceeding. A man in power ſhould never be too raſh in what concerns the character and welfare of a paſſive inferior. I ſincerely forgive this gentlemen for what he did: and, if himſelf, or you, think me in any ſhape reprehenſible

from

from any proceeding in the caſe truly ſtated before you, I do joyfully embrace this opportunity to humbly aſk his pardon—and,

To the honorable gentleman the ſubject-matter of this Chapter is, with reſpect, dedicated, by his humble and very obedient ſervant,

The AUTHOR.

TUrning over *ſome* leaves of the London Review for Sept. 1775, rays of light from printed characters, *which* formed ſyllables, *which* formed words, *which* formed Engliſh ſentences, darted through the pupil, ruſhed through the various humours of viſion, percuſſed the retina, and with the velocity of lightning, the ſhock being conducted *within-ſide* the cranium by the optics, gave *ſenſorium* ſuch a thwack! I was inſtaneouſly conſcious that Art. xx. contained a *Cri*—no!—what ſhall I call it?———— On, "Deſcription of Nevis, &c."

Now, with all manner of *oddly-fanciful* deference, and the moſt genuine *funny-good-natured* reſpect to the gentlemen Critics and learned Editor of the London Review, Is it not an indelible convincement of expanded powers of underſtanding, to be able, at ſight, to aſſert, that the letters J, A, M, E, S—R, Y, M, E, R, when arranged *ſecundum artem*, ſo as to form two words, do abſolutely ſtand as ſigns and tokens of a man's name: even, *firſtly*, of his diſtinction as an individual; and, *ſecondly*, and moreover, of his really being the author of the above pamphlet?

Thus they proceed—"He appears to be ſome precious limb of Galen"—now, here I am puzzled; for I do not recollect to have any where read that the *vegetable* Galen was biſected, *triple-ſected*, and ſubdivided into parts, *which*, after a *handful* of centuries in oblivious-corruption were animated with human-ſoul, and principled with medical,

medical, and original Galenic knowledge—Again, pray had that old ſnuffy fellow Galen more than two limbs? 'cauſe, if I don't miſtake, they hint as if he had had a greater number—"*Some limb*"—Lord pity them!———

Next come in quotation, my preface with four or five paragraphs of Chap. I.—Upon *this* I have only to obſerve, *their* readers, in various modes, will judge and act on the ſubject of the *yielded liberty*.

Now for the finiſhing touch—How! (ſaith they) the extremities of the trees fall down in ſhowers! nay, *readers*, if you boggle at ſuch a trifle as this, you are not fit for *reviewers*. Why may not the boughs fall down in ſhowers as well as attract the *cauſe of the ſuſpenſion* of the vapours? You underſtand neither one nor the other!—Nor we, with all our profeſſional ſagacity to help us, &c.

Without acting the part of a *boggler* or *goggler*, that is, without being in the act of boggling or goggling, I will juſt aſk, whether any man in his right ſenſes—or, right ſenſes in him—would ſay, that, "extremities of trees"—or, "vapours" in the atmoſphere, governed the verb *fall*, in ſhowers? Again, they aſk, Why may not the boughs fall down in ſhowers as well as attract the *cauſe of the ſuſpenſion* of the vapours?—O fie miſs!—go ſtudy meteorology and chemiſtry, get acquainted with the doctrine of ſolidity and fluidity, become ſkilled in the nature of *fixt* and *volatile*, heat and cold, evaporation and condenſation: and, if you attended *Ferguſon* on thunder and lightning, it would not be amiſs.

FINIS.